

## Successful Children and Youth Policy Team

### September 17, 2014 Meeting Summary

Key decisions and actions are in **bold**.

#### SCYPT Members in Attendance:

Gloria Addo-Ayensu, Bob Birmingham, Tisha Deeghan, Jack Dobbyn, Brenda Faison (for Darrell White), Cristy Gallagher, Pat Harrison, Bryan Holland (for Ed Roessler), Cathy Hudgins, Pat Hynes, Rick Leichtweis, Chris Leonard, Jane Lipp, Lesley MacDonald (for Eileen Ellsworth), Jeff McKay, Megan McLaughlin, Mary Ann Panarelli, Fahemeh Pirzadeh, Jeff Platenberg, Dave Rohrer, Jane Strauss, Douglas Tyson, Daryl Washington, Darrell White (by phone)

#### Meeting Logistics:

SCYPT members had inquired about having some meetings at Gatehouse (the FCPS administration building, located in Merrifield) to emphasize the county-schools partnership, make SCYPT meetings more accessible for FCPS staff, and even out commute burdens. A suitable conference room is available at Gatehouse for the December, January, and May meetings. **With no objections from the team, it was agreed that those meetings would be scheduled for Gatehouse.** Jesse Ellis will send out revised calendar notifications.

Pat Hynes asked if the team would be willing to move its meeting time to 3 to 5:30 pm. **Jack Dobbyn suggested members should review their availability for such a switch and the proposed change will be voted on at the October meeting.**

#### Action Item – Endorsement of Recommendations for Advancing Opportunity and Racial Equity:

Karen Shaban and Marlon Murphy, joined by others from the SCYPT's Racial Equity Subgroup, updated on the progress of the work to advance opportunities and achieve equity. The team has researched best practices, met with experts and other jurisdictions engaged in this work (see <http://www.racialequityalliance.org/twin-cities-convening/> for a video of a recent session in Minnesota), convened the elected officials serving on the SCYPT to consider actions to engage the full boards, and begun work on a local collective leadership approach to making racial equity a visible priority.

They presented a draft resolution for the Board of Supervisors and School Board to jointly proclaim a vision of "One Fairfax," a new narrative that moves the county beyond embracing diversity towards adopting a new growth model drive by equity. This resolution is a step towards Fairfax County crafting and adopting an intentional racial equity policy. Among the team, there was widespread support for the "One Fairfax" concept and moving forward with the resolution. Multiple members stressed the importance of engaging the community in the development of the vision to ensure that everyone can "see themselves" in it; also, the community will need to buy into it and champion it. Another point during the discussion – a race equity lens is a starting point for policy making across all issues. For example, applying a race equity lens to affordable housing moves beyond asking if there's enough housing to also ask if affordable housing is "being done right."

Members also reinforced the critical nature of growth models – the emerging Strategic Plan for Economic Success, for example – being driven by racial equity. Multiple members noted that implementation is key; specific policies and processes must be in place at the agency level and below to ensure racial equity strategies are implemented. Equity work will remain on future SCYPT agendas for continued dialogue and action.

**The SCYPT endorsed the Racial Equity Subgroup continuing to work on refining the language in the resolution, engaging elected officials and community members to solicit input and obtain buy-in.**

**The SCYPT also endorsed the recommendation that the County enter into a formal agreement with the Government Alliance on Race and Equity, once staff have fully vetted the Alliance to ensure it is an appropriate fit.**

**The SCYPT also endorsed the following “asks”; the Subgroup will return with additional information regarding their implementation:**

- **servicing as a pilot site for an “Equity Scorecard,” under development by the National Results and Equity Collaborative (<http://resultsandequity.org/>);**
- **moving forward to establish a baseline report on racial equity in Fairfax County (see <http://policylink.org/search/equity%20profile> for examples of “Equity Profiles” completed by PolicyLink); and**
- **piloting the application of a race equity policy focused on early childhood education and school readiness.**

Information Item – Collective Impact Process:

Jesse Ellis noted that the County is nearing the completion of the contracting process to secure technical assistance in moving forward with the SCYPT’s collective impact work by identifying community-level goals and indicators and reviewing the team’s structure. More information will be provided by the next meeting.

Information Item – Middle School After-School Program:

Mark Emery provided an overview of the FCPS Middle School After-School Program. The program is managed by FCPS, but the County’s Department of Neighborhood and Community Services funds the majority of the program. The program is free, and attendance is much higher on the three days per week that late buses are provided than it is on the other two days. FCPS and NCS are engaging in a review of the program’s foundational logic model and evaluation plan. Later this fall, the SCYPT will be asked to help inform the development of those documents.

Information Item – SCYPT Year in Review:

The agenda package contains an overview of key initiatives and successes resulting from the team’s work over the last year.

Announcements:

Sophia Dutton mentioned that the 2013-2014 School Year data from the Fairfax County Youth Survey is now available. It can be accessed at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/youthsurvey>.

Lesley MacDonald noted that the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia currently has several grant cycles open, including one focused on mental health. More information is available at <http://www.cfnova.org/for-grant-seekers>.